

PUBLIC EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT BOARD
100 N Park
Helena MT 59620
Board Legislative Committee Minutes
Tuesday February 13, 2007
1:30 PM

Committee Members: Troy McGee, John Paull and Robert Griffith.

Staff: Roxanne Minnehan, Melanie Symons, Scott Miller,
Kim Flatow, Kathy Samson, Barbara Quinn, MPERA.

Other Attendees: Terrence Smith, Board Member by phone
Stephen Kologi, AMPRE.

Public Comment – *No public comment.*

Approval of Committee Minutes from meeting of Tuesday, February 06, 2007.
Mr. McGee made a motion to approve the minutes; Mr. Paull seconded the motion.
Minutes approved.

Executive Director's Report

No change on Board Bills HB 159, HB 125, HB 129, or the Governor's Bill HB 131.

Bill Review

HB293 – Allocate lottery money to teachers' retirement system. This bill has been referred to the House Appropriations Committee.

HB337 – Permissive levy for firefighter disability insurance. This has no effect on PERA.

HB544 – Allow for withholding of dues from retirement pensions. Roxanne Minnehan testified against this bill. The thought is that withholding dues from retirement pensions would be a convenience for the retiree but not the best use of retirement funds. In addition PERA does not have a payroll system in place to do this and the cost would outweigh the benefit. This bill would also open the door so other organizations could request the same rights. PERA Opposes.

HB559 – Increase exclusion of retirement benefits on state income tax. Nothing to report.

HB618 – Establish statewide account for employee termination costs. PERB is tracking.

HB639 – Create volunteer EMT retirement system. The retirement system is modeled after the VFCA. This bill raises many questions and the staff needs more time to review.

More information will be provided next week. At the present time, PERB is informational.

HB670 – Retirement systems reports on actuarial costs and other items. This bill just came out today and no hearing has been scheduled at this time. However, it was felt that some of the language was too broad and the board needed more clarification on issues such as actuarial updates and where the cost would come from. This was LC 0024 and some of the information would be covered in LC 0021. PERA will continue to monitor and is informational.

SB11 – PERS exemption for legislative session staff. This bill has passed the Senate and has moved to the House.

SB33 – Procedures governing social security numbers and computer security breaches. This bill has passed the Senate and has moved to the House.

SB68 – Clarify confidentiality terms in private equity investment using public funds. This bill was referred to Senate Finance and Claims.

SB113 – Increase meal reimbursement rates for state employees. This bill was referred to Senate Finance and Claims.

SB177 – Extend time for challenging agency actions. This bill has passed the Senate and is moved to the House.

SB340 – Authorize Governor to withdraw proposed rules. The Governor's office opposed this bill.

SB408 – Governor's office review of agency rules. The bill was scheduled for a hearing on the 9th of February. The bill was tabled in Committee.

Un-introduced Legislation

LC1042 – Establish retirement system for certain school board trustees. Drafted for Administration by the Teachers' Retirement Board.

LC1986 – Creditable retirement service for deployed teachers.

LC2459 – Revise firefighter retirement laws. PERA is interested in this. Will continue to monitor.

Other Business

There being nothing else to come before the committee, Mr. Griffith, Chair, adjourned the meeting at 3:00 pm.